

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 302055

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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INFO USMISSION NATO

JCS

CNO

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMSIXTHFLT

S E C R E T STATE 302055

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: US OPERATIONS AT SOUDA AIRBASE

1. THERE IS STILL STRONG STATE AND DEFENSE INTEREST IN PERSUADING GREEKS TO LIFT RESTRICTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON US NAVY FLIGHT OPERATIONS AT SOUDA BAY. THESE RESTRICTIONS, WHICH HAVE BEEN IN EFFECT SINCE JULY 1974, CUT SEVERELY INTO OUR ABILITY TO SUPPORT THE US SIXTH FLEET IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.

2. AS NEARLY A MONTH AND A HALF HAS PASSED SINCE YOUR LAST CONVERSATION WITH DEFENSE MINISTER AVEROFF ON THIS SUBJECT,
SECRET

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PAGE 02 STATE 302055

WE BELIEVE THAT YOU SHOULD AGAIN REMIND HIM OF OUR INTEREST,

COUPLING THIS WITH A REQUEST THAT THE RESTRICTIONS BE LIFTED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IN ADVANCE OF THE THIRD US-GREEK PLENARY IN LATE JANUARY.

3. AS PART OF YOUR PRESENTATION, YOU SHOULD ALSO RAISE THE COLLATERAL QUESTIONS OF THE IMPACT OF NEW TAXIWAY CONSTRUCTION AT SOUDA BAY ON THE USN DETACHMENT AND THE RECENT HAF COMMANDEERING OF POL STORAGE TANKS.

4. FYI. UNLESS THESE MATTERS ARE RESOLVED TO OUR SATISFACTION, WE BELIEVE ISSUE OF US USE OF SOUDA BAY SHOULD BE

INTRODUCED INTO US-GREEK BASE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE SAME MANNER OF OTHER BILATERAL TOPICS. OUR INTENTION WOULD BE TO SEEK ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOUDA SUBGROUP AT THE THIRD US-GREEK PLENARY, AND CHARGE IT WITH THE TASK OF REVISING THE EXISTING TECHNICAL ARRANGEMENT IN A MANNER SATISFACTORY TO BOTH PARTIES. END FYI. KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

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